

## DPSI Review First meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2007

### Notes

As a variety of attendees from different institutions were represented, those present first introduced themselves and then explained their role, specifically in relation to the Diploma in Public Service Interpreting examination.

It was stated that the function of the forum was to investigate and review the format of the Diploma in Public Service Interpreting examination in order to ensure maximum efficiency and applicability to all users; particularly focusing on the importance of the end-users of the examination. It was stressed that the aim was not to completely redesign the examination but to streamline the existing examination format where possible.

### Brief summary of comments noted:

- Examination of the structure of the mark scheme and explanation of QCA accreditation. Add-on options, Prison Service and Mental Health were confirmed as accredited by QCA.
- The option of adapting the examination to other areas was discussed which led to speculation regarding the viability of provision of refresher courses for those holding the DPSI to 'top up' their knowledge and also keep up the standard expected from NRPSI members.
- Some institutions present confirmed that they were holding informal discussions with partners to deliver refresher courses.
- The comparatively small number of candidates for the Health option was felt to be due to lack of funding and it was agreed that there should be a clearer understanding of the definition of value in Skill terms, particularly for a vocational qualification.
- **It was noted as part of the Review 'Wish List' that some sort of interim qualification should be provided.**

## Optional papers

### **Suggestions included:**

- Court practice - At present qualifying candidates do not have experience of being in a courtroom.
- Ethical questions – To be included in the examination, incorporating multiple choice or quick answer questions. The possibility of using a knowledge bank of questions was discussed.
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It was noted that past examination papers had included sections on ethics and good practice and it was felt desirable that these should be re-instated.

The difficulties of maintaining the high standards of marking of the DPSI were discussed with attendees exchanging views on the merits and pitfalls of digital technology as tools for assessment. It was decided that the present marking system should remain operational in view of the expense to Centres of acquiring equipment and also the lack of proven benefits reported.

- **It was noted for the Wish List that different recording methods and using digital media effectively should be investigated.**

## Marking

The marking scheme and criteria for the DPSI was considered to be in need of clarification and review, particularly for sight translation.

The format of the results and their calculation was felt to be confusing and easy to misunderstand.

### **Suggestions included:**

- The positions of the whispered and simultaneous components of the examination could be moved around.
- Include a category of fatal errors into the marking system.
- Standardise Examiner practice as much as possible
- Review Examiner training
- produce a coherent presentation of a mark scheme

### **Action Points to be undertaken by IoLET:**

- **Investigate viability of add-on option focused specifically on Court Practice**
- **Produce sample Ethics / Good Practice database of multiple choice questions**
- **Explore alternative methods of assessment recording**
- **Produce coherent and applicable explanation of the mark scheme to be produced**
- **Investigate moving whispered interpreting to the end of Task 1A/B**